

SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SUBJECT Oil fields in the Buguruslanneft District

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1. The five large oil fields in the Buguruslanneft area were the Stepanovka, Pilyugino, Deutugan-Bilugyev, Alexandrovska-Krasnoyarsk, and Ananak-Pokhivistnevo fields. The Stepanovka Oil Field was 7 km southwest of Buguruslan on both sides of the railroad line to Kuybyshev. It covered an area of 2 to 3 x 4 to 5 km. The field, which was in operation before the war, had about 25 movable drilling units. In addition, there were 15 to 20 stationary drilling derricks, 25 to 40 meters tall. [redacted] the maximum drilling depth in this area was 1,200 meters, according to others, 1,800 meters. No new drillings were said to have been made in the times immediately preceding April 1949 since the productivity of the field started to decline. Supply lines connected the drilling sites with the main line leading to the Buguruslan railroad station. About 350 workmen employed in production were constantly on the field.
2. The Pilyugino oil field was almost 30 km south of Buguruslan, 3 km southwest of Pilyugino. It covered an area of about 2 to 3 x 4 km. The first drillings started in 1946, and large scale production began in the fall of 1948. At first only about nine movable drilling units were in operation, and there were only a few stationary derricks. However, 30 to 40 wells were in operation by April 1949, and new fields were constantly being opened. The drillings to the deeper strata were between 800 and 3,000 meters deep. Feeder lines and one main line also led from the Pilyugino Oil Field to the filling station at the Buguruslan railroad station.
3. The Deutugan-Bilugyev oil field, measuring 2 to 3 x 15 km, extended between Deutugan and Bilugyev about 70 to 80 km northeast of Buguruslan. The first drilling and opening operations were made in 1947. By April 1949 the field had 26 stationary derricks, all of them 40 meters high, and some movable drilling units. At all times at least 40 free-flowing wells were in operation. Most drillings had an average depth of about 700 meters. The greatest depth observed was 3,200 meters. Early in 1949 the field still had no tanks or pipelines. Though a main line to Buguruslan was scheduled, construction had not yet started. The Deutugan oil field was considered especially productive and promising. About 400 workmen were constantly employed in production.

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4. A somewhat smaller drilling site was very close to Buguruslan, between the railroad line to Ufa and the Kinel River. It was described variously as being either 5 to 6 km east of the small locality Alexandrovskaya or about 10 km east of Krasnoyarsk. [redacted] the field covered an area of about 1 x 1.6 km, according to others, 3 x 4 km. The field, which had been exploited since 1938, had about 170 pumping installations in early 1949. The greatest drilling depth was 1,400 to 1,600 meters. The crude oil produced was said to be of an especially high quality and to be rich in light fractions. About 400 to 450 men were continuously employed in production. 25X1
5. Another oil field was 30 to 35 km from Buguruslan north of the Amanak-Pokhvistnevo railroad line. Extensive experimental drillings were made at this field. No data are available on the productivity and production.
6. The average drilling depth of the oil fields in the Buguruslan area was generally indicated as 500 to 700 meters. Almost all wells, even those at great depth, had such a pressure created by natural gas that they were free-flowing for months after having been brought in. Therefore, free-flowing wells were constantly in operation in all fields, but, as the pressure decreased, they finally become pumping wells. Some wells were so shallow that they gave off heavy gushers at a depth of only 30 to 70 meters. The Stepanovka, Pilyugino and Pokhvistnevo fields had numerous natural gas wells. The natural gas, led in collecting pipes to a main line going to Kuybyshev, was supplied to Kuybyshev plants.
7. Three different kinds of drilling implements were used for drilling and producing oil in the Buguruslan area. There were mobile drilling units mounted on 12-ton trucks equipped with special engines. These mobile units, which were suitable for drilling depths of up to 300 meters, had steel frames which could be wound up to a height of about 18 meters. Stationary derricks, wooden or steel structures, 25 to 28 meters high, were used to drill up to 1,800 meters deep. For deeper drillings, up to 3,000 to 3,500 meters, stationary steel derricks, 40 to 42 meters high, were used. The equipment was mostly of [redacted] origin, particularly the mobile drilling units and a large part of the pipelines. 25X1
8. All fields, except the Bentugan field, were connected by pipelines to two large tank depots located some few kilometers east and southeast of the Buguruslan railroad station. The diameter of the feeding lines averaged 60 to 80 cm. The two tank depots had 6 to 8 tanks each, 12 to 15 meters high, and 15 to 20 meters in diameter. Each tank had a capacity ranging from 1,500 to 3,000 tons. The tank depots had many spurs to the railroad station. In addition to two pumping stations, the tank depots had several filling installations, which permitted the simultaneous filling of about 70 tank cars at the old loading point and of about 20 at the new loading point. A total of at least two trains, each with 40 to 50 two and four-axle tank cars, left the Buguruslan railroad station each day. Accordingly, daily shipments must have totaled between 3,000 and 5,000 metric tons.
9. Natural gas was used to drive the pumps extracting oil from the wells and the intermediary pumps for the pipelines. In addition the oil fields and the loading station were supplied with electric current by the power plant south of Buguruslan. This power plant had four large turbines, which were also operated by natural gas.
10. The output in the Buguruslanneft area was 1.5 million tons in 1946, 1.8 million tons in 1947, and 2.5 million tons in 1948, and the planned production for 1949 was 3.6 million tons and for 1950 5.0 million tons. *

* [redacted] Comment. According to the Five-Year Plan, the total 1950 crude oil output in the Volga-Ural area was scheduled to be 7.33 million tons, most of which would be obtained from the expanded Syzranneft and Buguruslanneft operations. The production figures given in the present report seem to be very high, at least for 1949 and 1950, but an annual output of 2 to 2.5 million tons in 1946 - 1948 is certainly probable. [redacted] 25X1

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